

We Claim:

1. A computer based system for illustrating product data comprising:
 - (a) an input interface wherein a user selects one or more products;
 - (b) at least one database comprising product data of the products;
 - (c) a program in communication with the input interface and the at least one database, wherein the program retrieves selected product data for products selected by the user; and
 - (d) an output interface in communication with the program, which illustrates at least some of the selected product data,wherein the computer based system is interactive with the user, such that the user may adjust at least some of the product data illustrated in the output interface to generate additional product data.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the program communicates with the input interface, the database, and the output interface via a communication media comprising one or more types of computer networks.
3. The system of claim 1 further comprising a maintenance interface in communication with the database.
4. The system of claim 1 further comprising an output device in communication with the output interface.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the output device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a fax machine, a diskette and a compact disc.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the user selects at least two products.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of input screens.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the products comprise coatings.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the product data illustrated in the output interface comprises one or more of component data, component-mixing ratios, and the RTS price of the coatings.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the component data comprises at least one of a code, a description, a price, and a package size.
11. The system of claim 10, wherein the description designates a quality grade of the coating.
12. The system of claim 1, wherein the input interface comprises a product search tool.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the search tool comprises a list of product suppliers and brands.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the search tool comprises a list of paint lines.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein the search tool comprises a list of product mix categories.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein the search tool comprises a list of products.
17. The system of claim 1, wherein the program resides on a server.
18. The system of claim 1, wherein the database comprises product data for a plurality of products of a plurality of product suppliers.

19. The system of claim 10, wherein the user may adjust one or more of the component package sizes, component-mixing ratios and RTS prices illustrated in the output interface.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein system is capable of generating a report that illustrates the contents of the output interface.

21. A computer generated report illustrating the contents of an output interface, wherein the report comprises selected product data of one or more products, wherein the product data is retrieved from at least one database comprising product data of one or more products, and wherein at least some of the product data is adjustable in the output interface to generate additional product data.

22. A document comprising the report of claim 21.

23. The report of claim 21, wherein the report comprises selected product data of at least two products.

24. The report of claim 23, wherein the products comprise coatings.

25. The report of claim 24, wherein the product data comprises component data and one or more component-mixing ratios.

26. The report of claim 25, wherein the product data comprises at least one of a code, a description, a price, and a package size.

27. The report of claim 26, wherein the description designates a quality grade of the coating.

28. The report of claim 25, wherein the product data that is adjustable in the output interface comprises one or more of the component package sizes, component-mixing ratios and RTS prices.

29. A computer-based method for generating a report comprising product data of one or more products, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a selection of one or more products from a user via an input interface;

(b) retrieving product data of the one or more products from at least one database comprising product data of one or more products;

(c) illustrating selected product data of the one or more products in an output interface; wherein at least some of the illustrated product data is adjustable by the user in the output interface to generate additional product data; and

(d) generating a report that illustrates the contents of the output interface.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein step (a) comprises receiving a selection of at least two products from a user.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the products comprise coatings.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein step (c) comprises illustrating selected product data comprising one or more of component data, component-mixing ratios, and the RTS price of the coatings.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the component data comprises at least one of a code, a description, a price, and a package size.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the description designates a quality grade of the coating.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of input screens.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein the adjustable product data comprises one or more of the component package sizes, component-mixing ratios and RTS prices illustrated in the output interface.

37. The method of claim 29, further comprising:

(e) delivering the contents of the report to an output device to produce a document illustrating the report.

38. A method of using a computer to compare product data, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) using a computer-based input interface to input a selection of at least two products to be compared; and

(b) reviewing an output interface illustrating selected product data of the at least two products, wherein the selected product data is retrieved from at least one database comprising product data of at least two products,

wherein at least some of the illustrated product data is adjustable by the user in the output interface.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising:

(d) generating a report that illustrates the contents of the output interface.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the selected product data comprises one or more of component data, component-mixing ratios, and the RTS price of the coatings.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the component data comprises at least one of a code, a description, a price, and a package size.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the description designates a quality grade of the coating.

43. The method of claim 38, wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of input screens.

44. The method of claim 37, wherein step (c) comprises modifying one or more of the component package sizes, component-mixing ratios and RTS prices illustrated in the output interface.

45. The method of claim 38, further comprising:

(e) delivering the contents of the report to an output device to produce a document illustrating the report.